



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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“NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH – OWN YOUR FUTURE”

TEMPLE, TEXAS, June 19, 2006- Owning a home helps to give families security and a sense of pride, and it is an important part of the American way of life. Nearly 70 percent of all Americans now enjoy the satisfaction of owning their own homes. USDA Rural Development is proud to have had the opportunity to assist almost 250,000 Americans achieve their homeownership dream since the start of the Bush Administration.

“USDA Rural Development has a long history of assisting rural citizens to achieve and maintain the dream of homeownership. It is with great pride that we join President Bush in celebrating June 2006 as Homeownership Month,” said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director in Texas.

In celebration of National Homeownership Month, USDA Rural Development, along with the Iowa Park Chamber of Commerce and the City of Iowa Park Division of Economic Development is co-hosting a workshop geared towards potential homeowners. This workshop will also benefit anyone in the real estate community – builders, realtors and lenders are all invited to attend. The workshop will be held on Thursday, June 29, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Iowa Park Recreational Activity Center, 806 North Third Street, Iowa Park. For more information contact Sammie Hatfield at 940-592-5441 or Paula Jones at 940-627-3531 Extension 4.

USDA Rural Development faces the challenge of finding innovative ways to place families in the housing they need with payments they can afford. We are achieving this goal with programs that make guaranteed loans through approved financial institutions, require no down payment, and provide mortgage interest rates for as little as one percent, depending on income levels. Another popular program groups 10 to 12 families together, under the direction of a non-profit organization, to work together to build their own homes.

Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$23 billion in the American Dream of homeownership. If you would like to find out more about one of our Housing Programs, contact the Decatur Local Office at (940) 627-3531, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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